

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget released on Monday is a blueprint for failure. It projects a \$1.6 trillion budget deficit for this year alone; and in its entire 10-year window, the annual deficit never falls below \$700 billion. The much vaunted spending freeze only covers some 13 percent of the budget and only accomplishes this goal by moving certain programs from discretionary to mandatory spending. Once the freeze is picked at by the free-spending leadership of the House and Senate, it will be reduced to a lukewarm puddle of even more deficit spending.

To make the tough decisions about balancing our budget, the administration looks to create a nonbinding commission. The President doesn't need a toothless commission when he already has the power to direct his Office of Management and Budget to create a blueprint for solvency. We need leadership. We need the buck to stop with the President, not with the commission of unelected economists, academics or bureaucrats.

SOLVING THE NATION'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, while there continues to be signs of an improving economy, it is clear that Americans still need help. In my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina, unemployment rose to 12.5 percent in December. That's one out of eight, and 73 of my 100 counties are suffering unemployment rates of at least 10 percent.

President Obama's 2011 budget wisely provides for critical investments to spur job creation and strengthen long-term economic security. This budget includes \$100 billion in small business tax cuts, infrastructure and clean energy. This includes a new \$33 billion small business tax cut, an extension of the broadest tax cut in American history, the Making Work Pay tax credit. It also increases the child care tax break for middle-class families and eliminates the capital gains tax on investments by small businesses. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to ensure that we take the necessary and commonsense steps to solve these problems.

BIGGER BUDGET BLUNDERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unemployment is still at double digits across the country; and in my home State of South Carolina, it is at a record high of 12.6 percent. Families are hurting, losing jobs. With this dismal backdrop, why would the administration propose a budget that will increase taxes by more than \$2 trillion

over 10 years, killing jobs? The budget is more spending, more taxes, and more borrowing.

Media across the country are even calling this budget bluff. In the San Francisco Chronicle, liberal economists question the deficit reduction measures. Economist Isabel Sawhill called such measures "totally depressing," saying it is "depressing" to see the administration abandon even the goal of a balanced budget. The Associated Press reports it as a deficit commission "without teeth." Politico reports it is "betting heavily on the symbolism of" a spending freeze filled with loopholes and is already being undercut by Washington Democrats.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

NO PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4255, Stop the Automatic Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act. Representative RON PAUL and I introduced a bipartisan bill which has 117 cosponsors, because we think that at a time like this, it is simply unconscionable for Members to be seeking a pay raise.

Unless Congress acts, that is precisely what will happen. Americans are struggling. They're not getting a pay raise and neither should Congress. President Obama has frozen pay for senior White House officials. Chief Justice Roberts recently announced that he is not seeking a salary increase for Federal judges this year. Congress should follow suit. We hear an awful lot about fiscal discipline in this Chamber. We talk the talk. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for us to walk the walk. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing by cosponsoring H.R. 4255 and stop Congress from getting a pay raise.

BIPARTISANSHIP

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I were pleased to meet with the President last week about the many problems facing our Nation, the most important being that folks across the country are without jobs. We can no longer pretend that exploding deficits, bigger government, more taxes, and generational debt will lead us out of this dire recession.

During his State of the Union speech, the President said that Republicans have presented no solutions. Later that week when we handed him a copy of the Republicans' "Better Solutions," without reading it he said that many of our ideas have already been incor-

porated into his bills. Which is true? I urge the President to immediately abandon the government takeover of health care and other industries. Instead, he should actually consider some of these commonsense ideas so that we can solve this country's problems in a bipartisan way by immediately cutting deficits and restoring the thing this country wants most—jobs, jobs, jobs.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2011 BUDGET REQUEST

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the President unveiled his budget to help restart our economy and get our deficit under control after years of mismanagement by the previous administration. As we make the hard choices that are needed, we must remember where we started. When President Obama was sworn into office, our economy was on the brink of collapse, 700,000 Americans were losing their jobs every month, and our financial and housing markets were in free-fall.

Working with Congress, President Obama took immediate and extraordinary steps to repair this economic and fiscal mess that he inherited. A year later, our economy is slowly but surely recovering but too many families continue to struggle. Unemployment remains unacceptably high. That's why job creation and economic recovery are the central focus of the President's budget. It requests \$100 billion for a job creation package to help small businesses access credit and hire new workers.

It also invests in education, clean energy and our infrastructure, all essential for our long-term economic vitality. Finally, the President takes the first steps toward restoring the fiscal responsibility that had been lost in the past decade.

Mr. Speaker, after the mess we've inherited, we clearly have our work cut out for us, but the President's budget provides us with a good blueprint to meet these huge challenges.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another is under recognition.

WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, Congress will raise the debt ceiling \$1.9 trillion to \$14.6 trillion this week. The deficit last year, \$1.5 trillion. The budget introduced on Monday is another \$1.5 trillion. We're over \$12 trillion in debt, on our way to \$20 trillion.